



CONGRESSWOMAN VISITS - Sam and Gurteen Schiavo chat with U. S. Congresswoman Sue Myrick during her visit to the Kings Mountain Senior Center Monday morning.

Myrick discusses issues with KM senior citizens

By 2003 U. S. Congresswoman Sue Myrick predicts that the earnings limits for senior citizens will double.

The 9th District Republican Representative made the statement during a Town Meeting Monday morning at Kings Mountain Senior Center.

Myrick, a former Charlotte mayor and a candidate for reelection to her House seat, said a "cultural change" in the way government does business has seen a downsizing that sends programs back to local communities where they belong.

"Medicare is secure at least until 2007 and there are more options now which provide mammograms, prostate tests and other helps for senior citizens," she said in response to questions.

Myrick said welfare rolls are down 40 percent and that's a positive step.

J. C. Bridges asked about the status of social security back payments for Notch babies. Myrick said she introduced a bill that would provide a \$5,000 one time payment to notch babies but the bill didn't pass. An original co-sponsor of that piece of legislation, she plans to introduce it again next year.

Myrick said a minimum of \$700 billion is in the budget for social security and education has also received money for teachers and local control is back in the hands of local educators. Money was included in the budget for natural disasters such as loans to farmers who lost crops in the Midwest and Southwest.

"Keeping social security intact has been a priority of both Democrats and Republicans, we also eliminated the inheritance tax and reduced capital gains to 15 percent," said Myrick.

Myrick said the Congress finally passed the big appropriations bill, responding to questions from newcomers Sam and Gurteen Schiavo who moved here recently from California.

"I was disturbed after I saw the 4,000 page bill

that some spending was included that I think should have been deleted but next term I plan to introduce a bill to rescind some of that spending," said Myrick.

Responding to observation by J. C. Bridges that Congress should keep the military strong, Myrick said \$9 billion is included in the budget for defense.

"Our strategic missile defense system includes a commitment to a strong national defense and is the No. 1 priority of the federal government," she said.

Myrick said the U. S. has been involved in peace keeping missions for four years but Congress did not authorize troops to Bosnia and money had to come from the Pentagon budget.

A bill to restrict child pornography on the Internet will include severe penalties for offenders distributing pornography, said Myrick, who said a task force is looking into how to control sensitive information on the Internet without endangering a person's First Amendment rights.

Lucy Wells commended Myrick and her opponent, Rory Blake, for running a clean campaign.

"I am running on my merit," said Myrick who introduced a bill in the House to levy a \$10,000 fine on a candidate who did not tell the truth on political ads.

"I got few sponsors because we see negative ads all the time from candidates in the media but I plan to bring the bill back again next year," she said.

Myrick came to Kings Mountain from Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte where she said she talked to hospital officials about how to stem the rise of medical costs all over the country. Myrick said she watched as surgeons performed major surgeries.

Myrick visited constituents on her swing through the county. Her local office is open each Tuesday morning at Kings Mountain City Hall.

Samaritan's Purse project begins

Helping a child in a war-torn or impoverished country can be the way for a Cleveland County family to bring the holiday spirit to their home. Feeling helpless at seeing pathetic faces on television can be replaced by providing much needed and appreciated gifts for children in desperate situations. The

Cleveland County Family YMCA is offering a chance to put smiles on the faces of children with its Operation Christmas Child Project.

Joining thousands of others, the YMCA will be collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts, which will be distributed by Samaritan's Purse. In past years,

more than a million children in 36 countries like Nicaragua, Thailand, Lebanon, Bosnia, Honduras, and Armenia felt the warmth of the Christmas spirit when the boxes arrived. "For these children, this isn't 'just another' Christmas present," says

See Purse, 10A



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Tax Reduction Legislation

- ✓ Income tax cut for working families
- ✓ Repeal of the intangibles tax
- ✓ Legislation cutting the unemployment insurance tax
- ✓ Legislation raising the homestead exemption for senior citizens
- ✓ Targeting wasteful government spending

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Drug free community event at KM Armory

Kings Mountain National Guard will host a drug free community outreach event Saturday November 14 from 1-4 p.m. at The National Guard Armory, 200 Phifer Road.

There will be plenty of activities, exhibits, displays, entertainment, food and door prizes.

For more information call 739-4741.



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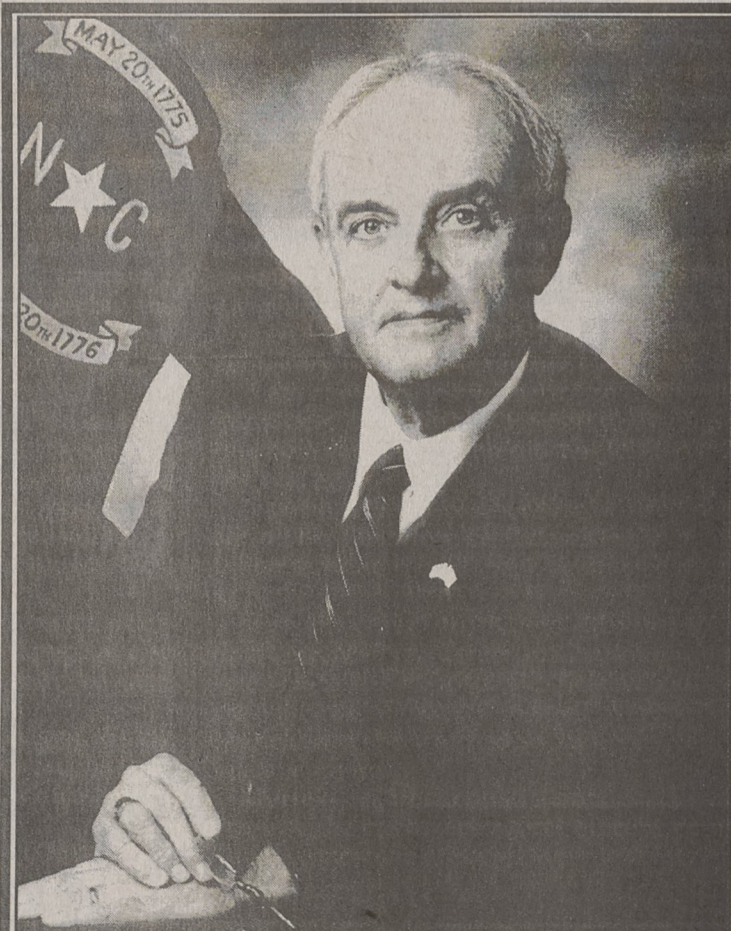
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